

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application in light of the preceding amendments and following remarks is requested. Claims 1, 7, 14, 18, 22, 26, 27, and 32 have been amended. As amended, each independent claim clearly recites that the plasma treatment is performed directly on the exposed substrate. As Applicant has previously stated, U.S. Patent No. 6,323,519 to Gardner et al. ("Gardner") fails to teach or suggest a plasma treatment applied directly to an exposed substrate. Therefore the pending independent claims are neither anticipated by Gardner, nor obviated by Gardner, and are in condition for allowance. The pending dependent claims (2-6, 8-13, 15-16, 19-21, 23-25, and 28-31), further limit the independent claims, and should also be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

It is clear from all of the foregoing that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner should feel that any further amendments are needed to place the application in condition for allowance, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 23, 2005.
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